



Awarded the INSPRA  
2006 Award of  
Excellence

Right: (from left) **Allison Sill, Christine Iverhouse and Rob Browy** in a scene from *Urinetown*.  
(photo courtesy of LZHS Drama Dept.)

## *Urinetown*...is this really the title?

Yes, *Urinetown* is really the title of Lake Zurich High School's (LZHS) fall production. But don't let the title fool you... *Urinetown* is not a show about toilet humor; it is a smash hit musical comedy by **Mark Hollmann and Greg Kotis**.

*Urinetown* is set in the future. A drought of epic proportions has forced corrupt entrepreneurs to come up with a unique way to conserve water—people must pay to use public restrooms to take care of private business. In fact, the drought is so devastating and widespread that private bathrooms become completely unthinkable! Those caught breaking the law (that is trying to take care of their business without paying the proper fee) are carted off to *Urinetown*. Mysteriously, they are never to be seen or heard from again. In true musical theater style, the poor citizens of this Gotham-like town revolt against authority. The story is hopeful and touching, comic and tragic.



The themes and messages are universal... while the premise is completely absurd!

*Urinetown* opened on Broadway just days after the tragic events of September 11, 2001. It played on Broadway for three years... an obvious testament to its staying power having survived a severe decline in theater patronage in a

post-September 11, New York City. The show also won three Tony awards including best book, best score and best director. Now, residents of Lake Zurich can experience *Urinetown* on Thursday, November 9; Friday, November 10; and Saturday, November 11. Each performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Lake Zurich High School. *Urinetown* is suitable for audiences of all ages.

The Lake Zurich High School Theatre program has long enjoyed a reputation of excel-

*Urinetown* --cont. on pg. 2

*The mission of Lake Zurich Community Unit School District 95 is to inspire all students to be passionate, continuous learners and to prepare them with the skills to achieve their goals and flourish as responsible, caring citizens in a global community.*

## Annex May Be Leased to New Private School

Having had a successful lease of the old Middle School North facility—now known as the Annex—with the Gavin School District during the previous school year, the administration of Community Unit School District (CUSD) 95 and its Board of Education are considering a two-year lease proposal from a private group who wants to lease the Annex property for up to two years in order to operate a new private gifted education program. The new private school would serve students from pre-school through eighth grade and would lease the Annex until its permanent school is completed in two years. Using the Annex as its temporary home, the proposed private school estimates it could serve approximately 500 students.

While the lease of the school would provide needed income for CUSD 95, it would essentially eliminate the facility from any school district use for the length of the two-year lease.

The proposal from the private school founders came as a surprise to Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**, who, along with the Board of Education, held a community forum on the school district's facilities on September 21, just days before receiving the unexpected proposal. That community forum had included discussions on the possible use of the Annex as a "swing space" in case one of the district's schools were to be closed for repairs or needed to be permanently shuttered.

"This proposal literally came to us within days of holding our community forum," explained Dr. Knutson. "In talking with the individuals who are starting this private school, it quickly became apparent that they were serious about their desire to lease the Annex for a two-year period."

Terms of the lease are not being released pending further negotiations with the founders of the private school.

# MSS Students Wrap Up Studies with Fashion Show



Above: **Stephanie Findore** models a kimono. (Photos and story provided by Jack VanNoord.)

Sixth grader **Stephanie Findore** sashayed down the runway in an authentic gold-colored kimono and a coordinating golden obi - or belt. While traditional Japanese music played in the background, she did a few turns at the end of the runway before returning backstage. With that opening, the first annual sixth grade East Asian Fashion Show was underway. The September 29 show was the culmination of the sixth grade's one-month study of China and her

neighbors.

The show involved thirty sixth-graders modeling thirty East Asian outfits including Japanese kimonos, Korean Hanboks, and an assortment of Chinese dresses and outfits. Add in fans, hats, umbrellas and other props, and the show included over a 100 authentic Asian artifacts.

A dozen students pitched in behind the scenes as stage crew, and two sixth graders **Kuba Pelka** and **Mandi Burkley** served as narrators.

The show was conceived and directed by sixth-grade social studies teacher **Jack VanNoord**.

"I thought it would be a memorable, fun way to tie together everything we had learned about East Asia."



For the one-day event, Middle School South's cafeteria was transformed into a high fashion arena complete with stage, curtain and a sixteen-foot long runway that projected out into the packed audience of 300. Watching the 7:45 a.m. show were fellow sixth graders, parents and teachers. Also in attendance were reporters and photographers from two local newspapers who covered the event.

"It was neat being able to see what people in Asia actually wore," said sixth grade audience member **Sam Hert**. "It was a great show."

All the items for the show were loaned to the sixth grade team by teachers, students, and District 95 families (one of whom

does not even have children at South but had heard about the show and wanted to contribute).

Not only did the models show off their outfits, but most of them did little micro-skits on stage. Activities ranged from doing a brief tea

ceremony, to demonstrating chopsticks, to using a Chinese abacus. The narrators explained to the audience what they were watching.

Sixth grader and kimono model **Kelsey Savio** shared, "I liked wearing the kimono and I liked doing the miniature tea ceremony on stage. It was fun."

The show featured not only traditional outfits but also brought audience members into the 20th century starting with three students sporting red scarves and white shirts as part of Mao Zedong's Red Youth Army from the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Sixth grader **Amanda Strausser** came on stage dressed as a Chinese gymnast sporting an actual t-shirt from the Chinese Olympic team. Furthermore, **Erika Smolyar** and **Alex Polizzi** came on stage with cell phones and ipods while wearing t-shirts from Hard Rock Beijing.

The finale for the show was **Maria Pavlou** in a seven-foot long, off-white Japanese wedding Kimono covered with hand-sewn cranes stitched in silver. Pavlou wore traditional white face make-up and dramatically opened the umbrella she was carrying when she reached the end of the runway.

VanNoord was assisted by fellow sixth grade teachers **Jean Bush**, **Joyce Montgomery**, **Amy Cohen** and **Debby Church**.

## Urinetown (cont.)

lence. *Urinetown* will be adjudicated for participation in the January 2007 Illinois High School Theatre Festival. Previously, the LZHS Theatre's productions of *All My Sons* (2001), *Quilters* (2003) and *The Diviners* (2005) have been selected for this prestigious state performance level.

"Personally, I am pleased to have had the opportunity to read the script and listen to a musical recording over the summer," said Principal **Dr. Michael Egan**. "I am sure that you, the audience, will find the show as entertaining as I did. I look forward to seeing what our talented director Ron Culver and our cast of students do to bring this show alive on our stage."

During the show, Little Sally comments, "No one is going to come see this show...the title is awful!" The cast and crew of *Urinetown* hope she is wrong! You can reserve your tickets by calling (847) 540-4740, or send an email to [boxoffice@lz95.org](mailto:boxoffice@lz95.org).

Questions about *Urinetown* can be sent to **Ron Culver** at [ron.culver@lz95.org](mailto:ron.culver@lz95.org). Get your tickets and don't forget to use the restrooms (while they are still free in Lake Zurich) and prepare to enjoy what is sure to be a great musical performance!

## Join an Action Team

Community Unit School District 95 is currently seeking staff, parents, students and interested community member volunteers to serve on action teams which will develop the necessary steps for successfully implementing the five strategies of the district's strategic plan which was renewed last spring and approved by the Board of Education on May 25. The five action teams include:

**Staff Commitment**  
**Community Commitment**  
**Trust & Collaboration**  
**Recruitment/Retention**  
**Curriculum & Learning Opportunities**

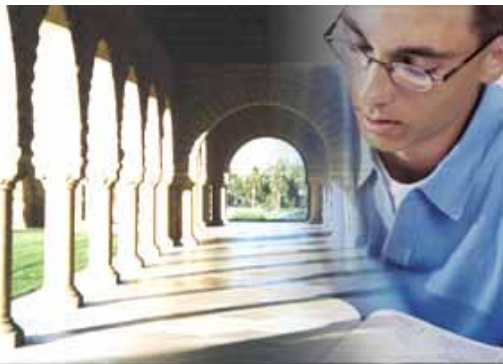


Action teams will begin meeting in October, with their final product expected in January/February.

The finished action plans will then be reviewed by the Strategic Planning Steering Committee before being submitted to the school district and its Board of Education.

If you are willing to participate on an Action Team, simply call the district's Office of Communications, (847) 540-5489. For more information, visit the district's strategic plan web site at [www.lz95.org/strategic](http://www.lz95.org/strategic).

## For the College Bound...



The Guidance Department at Lake Zurich High School is pleased to announce a new program on the college selection process. Illinois State University and Lawrence University admission representatives will present on what to expect if you attend a public or a private university. Topics to be discussed by each representative include the importance of campus visits, personal statement and essay do's and do nots, how applications are processed, and finding the right fit. The presentation will be Wednesday, October 18, 7-8 p.m. in the school's Performing Arts Center.

## Show the Spirit of 95



Students, their families and district staff are showing their school spirit on the new Spirit of 95 web page. The pictures were received last spring after the Office of Communications & Community Relations asked staff, students and their families to send vacation and other photos of them and/or their families wearing their school spirit wear. The idea came from a similar wall of fame website for Eskimo Joe's, a popular collegiate hangout in Stillwater, OK.

You can view the Spirit of 95 web page by clicking on "Publications" menu on the district's main web page ([www.lz95.org](http://www.lz95.org)), or go directly to it at [www.lz95.org/spiritwall](http://www.lz95.org/spiritwall).

To submit a photo for the Spirit of 95 spirit wall, email your photo(s) to [jim.jennings@lz95.org](mailto:jim.jennings@lz95.org). Please note that by emailing your photo, you are giving the school district permission to post it on the Internet and to potentially utilize it in district publications such as *THRIVE in 95*.

## Denim Day Dollars

District 95's elementary schools broke out their denim skirts, shirts, pants, jackets, and other denim clothing in order to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer research as part of the Lee National Denim Day on October 6. Together, the elementary schools raised \$936 for the effort by collecting \$5 donations from participating students and staff. The local initiative was part of a national effort that has raised more than \$61 million over the past 10 years. For more information, go to [www.denimday.com](http://www.denimday.com).

## IF Students Hit the Bricks



On October 5, more than 300 Isaac Fox students and their families bypassed their cars and school bus stops in order to walk to school as part of International Walk to School Day. The actual day was October 4, but the school held their

event on October 5. The sidewalks and walkways around the school were filled with happy families who used the walk to talk with their children about school and visit with neighbors and friends.

Begun in 1997 by the Partnership for a Walkable America, the first event focused on the need for safe neighborhoods. Since then the reasons for the annual event have grown to include school safety, child and family wellness, cleaner air, etc.

Regardless of their reasons for walking, it was a great way to start the day, according to Principal **Jill Brooks**.

## Congress Comes to MSN



Congress came to Middle School North on October 11, when **Congresswoman Melissa Bean** (D-IL 8) paid a visit to talk with the students at MSN about her role in Congress. Accompanied by a TV news crew, Rep. Bean also discussed with the large group of students seated in the school's open cafeteria area about the need to stay safe while using the Internet, and took many questions from the appreciative audience.

According to teacher **Dean Starr**, Rep. Bean's appearance was thoroughly enjoyed by the seventh grade students, who are currently studying the U.S. Constitution.

Far Left: Students and their families traded in their cars and buses in order to walk to school Oct. 5. (photo provided by Jill Brooks)

Left: U.S. Rep. **Melissa Bean** (far right) answers a student question at MSN while a TV news crew films her appearance.

## Are You in the Know?

A new school year brings new opportunities and fresh beginnings. So start of this school year by being in the know when it comes to news about your schools by joining the Community Unit School District 95 **Key Communicator Network**.

Our Key Communicator (KeyCom) program is a network of community residents, leaders, opinion shapers and watchdogs whose opinions are well respected by friends, colleagues and neighbors.

We are not looking for cheerleaders, but people who care about our schools and want to be kept informed and are then willing to share that information with others.

As a Key Communicator, you will receive timely, factual information via a regular newsletter e-mailed to you about the work we're doing and

the issues affecting your school district and your schools.



Because this is designed to be a two-way communications network, we encourage you to give us your input and share your opinions. As a KeyCom member, your responsibility will be to share the information with friends, neighbors and colleagues.

To become a Key Communicator, simply call, email or fax:

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